

Sunday, December 24, 2023



**Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church of Greater Boston
145 Brattle Street Cambridge, MA**

Priest:

**It's Christmas Eve, and tonight we celebrate the single most joyous event in all of history,
the Holy Birth of our Savior Jesus Christ.**

**In attempt to remember well the gift God sent us, we would like to share the Christmas story as
recorded in the Gospels, and in song.**

We ask you to please join us in singing those songs of praise with us tonight.

Let us now begin our celebration of what happened on that first Christmas over 2,000 years ago.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

(Choir leads congregation)

O come, all ye faithful
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold Him,
Born the King of angels;
O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Sing Choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God in the highest;
O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Ave Maria (by Franz Schubert)

(Yeghishe Manucharyan)

Priest:

Blessed be our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

(Recited by all)

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day, our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever and forever.
Amen.

Priest:

**Unto us a child is born, and unto us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder;
and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,
The Mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of peace.**

Deacon and Congregation:

Having arrived at this hour of the evening, we lift up our hands and glorify You, O Lord our God, for You have brought us through this day in peace to arrive at this evening hour. Make us worthy, Lord, with pure heart and angelic song to give thanks to the Almighty Lord God. Save us and have mercy upon us. Have mercy on us, O Lord our God, through Your great mercy.

Let us all say together: Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.

Angels We Have Heard on High

(Choir leads congregation)

Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plain.

And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strain:

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethl'em, come and see
Him, whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the new-born King.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Priest:

**Holy Mother of God, who conceived the Word eternal that has no beginning or end, and gave birth to God,
Who is beyond our understanding, holding Him in your arms, He Who cannot be bound by time or space, we
beseech you to always intercede with Him on our behalf for the salvation of our souls.**

Reading by Ara, Talin, Vatche, and Raffi Balikian

(The congregation may sit)

The Reading is from the Gospel of St. Luke, chapter 1, vs. 26-34

26 In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, 27 to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

29 Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. 30 But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. 31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

Silent Night

(Choir leads congregation)

Silent Night, Holy Night,

All is calm, all is bright.

‘Round yon Virgin Mother and Child,

Holy Infant so tender and mild.

Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent Night, Holy Night,

Shepherds quake, at the sight.

Glories stream from heaven afar,

Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia.

Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!

The Congregation is asked to stand.

(The congregation is asked to stand.)

Priest:

Praise, all creatures, the Creator of all, the Lord of lords, the King of kings, the God of gods.

Bless, praise, and glorify Him for He is good and His mercy is forever.

Reading by Der Vasken, Yn. Arpi and Alina Kouzouian

The reading is from the Gospel of St. Luke 2:8-14

8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby,
keeping watch over their flocks at night.

9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. 10 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.

11 For to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior; Who is Christ the Lord.

12 And this will be a sign for you:

You will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”

13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

14 “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased!”

The Nicene Creed

(Everyone in unison)

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, the maker of heaven and earth, of things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the begotten of God the Father, the Only-begotten, that is of the substance of the Father.

God of God, Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten and not made; of the very same nature of the Father, by Whom all things came into being, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible

Who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate, was made man, was born perfectly of the holy Virgin Mary by the Holy Spirit.

By whom He took body, soul, and mind, and everything that is in man, truly and not in semblance.

He suffered, and was crucified, and was buried, and rose again on the third day, and ascended into heaven with the same body, and sat at the right hand of the Father.

He is to come with the same body and with the glory of the Father, to judge the living and the dead; of whose kingdom there is no end.

We believe also in the Holy Spirit, the uncreated and the perfect; Who spoke in the Law, and in the prophets, and in the Gospels. Who came down upon the Jordan, preached in the apostles, and dwelt in the saints.

We believe also in only one, catholic, and apostolic, holy Church. In one baptism with repentance, for the remission and forgiveness of sins. In the resurrection of the dead, in the everlasting judgment of souls and bodies, and the Kingdom of Heaven and in the life eternal.

Deacon:

As for those who say there was a time when the Son was not, or there was a time when the Holy Spirit was not, or that they came into being out of nothing, or who say that the Son of God or the Holy Spirit be of different substance, and that they be changeable or alterable, such does the catholic and apostolic Church anathematize.

Priest:

But we glorify Him Who was before the ages, worshipping the Holy Trinity and the One Godhead, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now and always, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Reading by the Bob & Kim Chebator Family

The reading is from the Gospel of St. Luke 2:15-20

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” 16 And so they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen Him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19 But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. 20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

(Congregation may sit)

The First Noel

(Choir leads congregation)

The first Noel, the angels did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay.
In fields where they, lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel!
They looked up, and saw a star,
Shining in the East, beyond them far.
And to the earth, it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel!

Reading by Antranig, Christina, Nareg, Haig, Nairi and Hrag Mardiros

The Reading is from the Gospel of St. Matthew 2:9-12

9 After the Magi had heard the king they went on their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; 11 and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. 12 And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

(Choir leads congregation)

O little town of Bethlehem,

How still we see thee lie,

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep

The silent stars go by;

Yet in thy dark streets shineth,

The everlasting light.

The hopes and fears of all the years

Are met in thee tonight.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,

Descend to us we pray,

Cast out our sin, and enter in,

Be born in us today;

We hear the Christmas angels,

The great glad tidings tell.

O come to us, abide with us,

Our Lord Emmanuel.

Reading by Ann Danielson

(Congregation may sit)

One Solitary Life

He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman.

He grew up in still another village, where He worked in a carpenter shop until

He was 30.

Then for three years He was an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book.

He never held an office.

He never had a family or owned a house.

He didn't go to college.

He never traveled more than 200 miles from the place He was born.

He did none of the things one usually associates with greatness.

He had no credentials but Himself.

He was only 33 when public opinion turned against Him.

His friends deserted Him.

He was turned over to His enemies and went through the mockery of a trial.

He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. When He was dying, His executioners gambled for His clothing, the only property He had . . . on earth.

When He was dead,

He was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Twenty-one centuries have come and gone, and today He is the central figure of the human race, the leader of mankind's progress.

All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man on earth as much as that One Solitary Life.

Hallelujah

(Yeghishe Manucharyan)

Christmas Eve Message- Fr. Vasken Kouzouian

(Congregation may sit)

Reading by Marilyn Takvorian & her Granddaughter Juliette Bene

The Reading is from the Book of Isaiah 9:6-7

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder, and His name will be called “Wonderful Counselor,

Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of peace.”

7 Of the increase of his government and of peace, there will be no end upon the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it, and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and for evermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Lighting of the Candles

(The congregation is asked to stand)

As “O Holy Night” is being sung,
the Priests will light the candle of the first worshipper in each pew.

The light will then be passed from worshipper to worshipper.

(Please remember that the lit candle should be held upright,
and the unlit candle is tipped to be lighted.)

O Holy Night

(Victoria Avedisyan)

O Holy Night, the stars are brightly shining
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth
Long lay the world, in sin and error pining
'Til He appeared, and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.

Fall on your knees,

O hear the angels' voices

O Night Divine, O Night, when Christ was born,

O Night Divine, O Night, O Night divine.

Truly He taught that we should love each other,

His law is love, and His Gospel is peace.

Chains shall He break, for slave shall be our brother,

And in His name, all oppression shall cease.

Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,

Let all within us praise His holy name.

Christ is the Lord,

O praise, His name forever

His power and glory, evermore proclaim

His power and glory, evermore proclaim.

(The Congregation may sit)

Reading by Sona Tashjian

The Reading is from the 146 Psalm (Psalm 146:1-10)

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

2 I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

3 Do not put your trust in princes,

in mortals, in whom there is no help.

4 When their breath departs, they return to the earth;

on that very day their plans perish.

5 Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,

whose hope is in the Lord their God,

6 who made heaven and earth,

the sea, and all that is in them;

who keeps faith forever;

7 who executes justice for the oppressed;

who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free;

8 the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

the Lord loves the righteous.

9 The Lord watches over the strangers;

he upholds the orphan and the widow,

but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

10 The Lord will reign forever,

for all generations.

Praise the Lord!

Priest: (Closing Prayer)

Hear our voice, O Lord our God. On this holy night receive our supplications, the lifting up of our hands and the words of our prayers. Sanctify this our evening offering so that we may prepare it for Your pleasure with a sweet fragrance. Increase in us, Almighty Lord, Faith, Hope, and Love, and all deeds of virtue. In living a devout, religious life day and night according to Your good will, may we become worthy to beseech You for the salvation of our souls and for our spiritual life, and to receive grace and mercy from You. So that we may thankfully glorify the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now and always, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Joy to the World

(Choir leads congregation)

Joy to the world! The Lord is come; Let earth receive her King.

Let every heart, prepare Him room, And heaven and nature sing, And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns; Let men their songs employ.

While fields and floods, rock hills and plains, Repeat the sounding joy,

Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world, with truth and grace; And makes the nations prove.

The glories of His righteousness, And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love,
And wonders, and wonders of His love.

Priest:

May you be blessed by the grace of the Holy Spirit.

Depart and remain in peace.

And may Christ our Lord be with us all.

Amen.



**WE WISH OUR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS
A VERY MERRY AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY, HEALTHY NEW YEAR!**

NOR TRIO:

SARGIS KARAPETYAN (VIOLIN)

ANDREI SOBCHENKO (ALTO SAXOPHONE)

NUNE HAKOBYAN (ORGAN)